

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [74] with the following amended paragraph:

[74] Fig. 4D illustrates a detailed description of a data chunk 320 according to an embodiment of the present invention. Each data chunk ~~[[340]]~~320 includes a chunk meta-data portion 350, packet meta-data 360, packet match bits 370, and packet payloads 380.

In addition, please replace paragraph [75] with the following amended paragraph:

[75] In this embodiment, chunk meta-data portion 350 is used to store data about data chunk ~~[[340]]~~320. For example, chunk meta-data portion 350 may specify the number of packet payloads (packets) 380, a file offset for a previous data chunk within the same data object, a file offset for the next data chunk within the same data object, the number of data packets in a data chunk, compressed packet meta-data for the packets, described below, and the like. In additional embodiments, the data chunk meta-data header may also include packet meta-data for all the data packets including the duration (playback duration) of the payload, the presentation time of the payload (e.g., time within a movie), the delivery time of the payload (a time SMPACER 130 delivers the payload to the client), protocol-specific data of the payload, and the like. Other types of data may be store in chunk meta-data portion 350 in other embodiments, such as timing information, and the like.

In addition, please replace paragraph [105] with the following amended paragraph:

[105] Generally, embodiments of the present invention have a system architecture that includes two software architecture portions: a streaming media (encoding) protocol ~~[[independent]]~~dependent portion including protocol ~~[[independent]]~~dependent interfaces (functions), and a streaming media (encoding) protocol independent portion including protocol independent interfaces (functions). By having protocol dependent and independent portions, this creates a general mechanism for efficient transfer of data that is independent of the encoding format. In this embodiment, a variety of encoding formats, such as RTSP, MMS, and other are supported. These formats have different parameter, for example, packet payload sized (e.g., 20 milliseconds of data per packet versus 100 milliseconds of date per packet), timing, and the like. Further, even one encoding format may have a variety of different parameters, such as bit rate, language, dropped packets, and the like. Accordingly, the inventors discovered that it would be advantageous to have a limited set of function directed to protocol specific functions and have the remaining functions directed to storage and retrieval. Thus storage and retrieval could be generalized and optimized without consideration of the encoding protocol or format.